éirígí

Poblacht na nOibrithe

Íochtar na bhFál, Aibreán, 2011

A vote for éirígí is a vote against cuts!

Over the next few years the Westminster and Stormont regimes will slash funding to healthcare, education, housing and other vital public services. Communities like West Belfast which rely heavily on these services will suffer most as a result of these cutbacks. Once again it is ordinary working families that will be forced to accept ill-health and sub-standard education and housing, while at the same time the wealthy in our society will remain untouched.

All of the parties in the Stormont coalition claim that they are opposed to the cutbacks, but they are still going to implement them. How can you oppose and support cutbacks at the same time? It just doesn't make any sense.

As things stand all ten councillors that represent the Lower and Upper Falls belong to either Sinn Féin or the SDLP. And both of these parties are in the Stormont coalition. So where is the opposition? And who is going to take a real stand against the cuts?

On May 5th you will have an opportunity to tell the parties in Stormont what you think of their cutbacks. You can vote for the cutbacks by supporting one of the parties that are in the Stormont coalition, or you can vote against the cutbacks by voting for éirígí. A vote for éirígí will send a very strong message to the political establishment – *'West Belfast will not accept your cutbacks and we will not pay for the greed of the rich.'*

West Belfast needs a radical new voice that will stand up for our proud community. A voice that will demand dramatic changes to how power and wealth are distributed within Irish society. With your support John McCusker can become that voice both inside of City Hall and on the streets.

Is as páirtithe i gcomhrialtas Stormont na deich gcomhairleoirí i dtoghcheantair na bhFál faoi láthair. Cá bhfuil an freasúra?

Ar 5ú Bealtaine beidh deis agat do bharúil a nochtadh le páirtithe Stormont faoina gcuid ciorruthe. Thig leat vótáil ar son na gciorruithe trí thacú le ceann de pháirtithe Stormont, nó thig leat vótáil i gcoinne na gciorruithe trí vótáil ar son éirígí.

Tá glór nua radacadh de dhíth ar larthar Bhéal Feirste. Glór a sheasfaidh ar son ár bpobail, agus a éileoidh athrú radacach sa dóigh a roinntear cumhacht agus maoin sa tsochaí. Le do thacaíocht, is féidir le John McCusker an glór sin a thabhairt – taobh istigh de Halla na Cathrach, agus níos tábhachtaí arís ar na sráideanna.

Vótáil i gcoinne giorruithe, vótáil éirígí

Sna blianta amach romhainn gearrfaidh rialtas Londain agus réimeas Stormont maoiniú do chúram sláinte, oideachas, tithíocht agus seirbhísí riachtanacha eile. Arís eile is iad teaghlaigh lucht oibre a bheas orthu glacadh le drochthionchar na gciorruithe seo. Éalóidh na saibhre slán sábháilte.

Deir na páirtithe ar fad i gcomhrialtas Stormont go bhfuil siad i gcoinne na gciorruithe, ach cuirfidh siad iad i bhfeidhm. Cén dóigh ar féidir freastal ar an dá thrá seo? Níl aon chiall ann.

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Gonc Deilbhe do Chónaitheoirí

Chuir John McCusker i leith mhaoinitheoirí na deilbhe 'Rise' ar thimpeallán an Bhealaigh Leathain go bhfuil siad ag déanamh neamhaird iomlán de thuairim mhuintir na háite.

Scríobh McCusker i mí Feabhra chuig Roinn Forbartha Sóisialta na Sé Chondae, Comhairle Cathrach Bhéal Feirste agus Comhairle Ealaíon na Sé Chondae ag iarraidh orthu athmhachnamh a dhéanamh ar airgead a chaitheamh ar an deilbh agus comhairliúcháin dáiríre a dhéanamh le muintir na háite faoin dóigh is fearr le dul i ngleic le díothacht shóisialta. Ach dá mhí níos moille, níl freagra ar bith faighte ag an fhear, ar de bhunadh Ard na bhFeá é.

●Suíomh 'Rise' ag an Bhealach Leathan

Cosnóidh an dealbh 'Rise' £486,000, le £330,000 ag teacht ó Roinne Forbartha Sóisialta an MLA Alex Attwood ó Iarthar Bhéal Feirste, £100,000 ón Chomhairle Ealaíon agus an £56,000 eile ón Chomhairle Cathrach.

Dúirt McCusker go raibh cónaitheoirí i gceantair Naomh Sheámuis agus an Bhealaigh Leathain i dteagmháil leis ag tús mhí Feabhra, iad ag léiriú a n-iontas agus a ndéistín go raibh an méid sin airgid á chaitheamh ar dhealbh nuair atá an lucht oibre ag súil le giorruithe ollmhóra i seirbhísí ina gceantair.

Dúirt McCusker gur mhasla a bhí san easpa freagra ó na húdaráis, ní amháin dó féin agus dá pháirtí, ach do na daoine sa cheantar a raibh i dteagmhil leis ar an chéad dul síos. Dúirt sé go bhfuil freagra iomchuí agus thráthúil tuillte ag saoránaigh a bhfuil imní orthu faoi ghnímh chomhlachtaí stáit, agus a thógann an cheist trína n-ionadaithe polaitiúla.

Gaeltacht Quarter Flourishes Despite Westminster and Stormont

The efforts of language activists who are continuing to develop the thriving Irish-speaking community in the Lower Falls have been praised by John McCusker. The Gaeltacht Quarter, which encompasses a number of Irish language schools, the Falls Road Cultúrlann, Raidió Fáilte and a number of other organisations has grown significantly in recent years.

John said: "The Falls Road's Gaeltacht Quarter is a shining example of success for language activists across Ireland. Through consistent hard work, local Gaels have built a thriving community that includes a number of schools, including Belfast's only Irish language secondary school, a cultural centre and a radio station. These efforts deserve to be commended by everyone."

However, John added: "Unfortunately, the response of the state to this success story has been depressingly predictable. The Stormont coalition and the British government have consistently refused to recognise the potential of the Gaeltacht Quarter and failed to provide it with adequate funding. The situation has become so bad that Coláiste Feirste is being forced to take the Six County Department of Education to court to secure adequate transport provision for its students.

'Through consistent hard work, local Gaels have built a thriving community.....'

"The Gaeltacht Quarter is a beacon of cultural revivalism and social regeneration. I am confident it will continue to flourish, regardless of the begrudging attitude of Westminster and Stormont."

Public Health Service Must Be Defended

John McCusker has called for the protection of all services at the Royal Victoria Hospital as the impact of the Stormont cutbacks begins to hit home. John said, "All of the political parties within the Stormont coalition have agreed to implement the British government cutbacks of around £4 billion in public investment in the Six Counties.

● RVH services must be protected

This will have a devastating impact on the services that working people rely on day and daily, including the health service. Already, some new mothers are being forced to leave hospital with their newborn children only a matter of hours after giving birth. The staff at the RVH do a sterling job in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles. They care for the people of this community with compassion and professionalism. Far from cutting the resources available to them, staff numbers and finances for quality care should be increased at the Royal."

John added: "The people of the Lower Falls suffer disproportionately from ill health due to a number of factors, ranging from social and economic deprivation to the legacy of infrastructural discrimination. We rely on institutions like the RVH not only to provide quality care for those who are ill, but also to develop strategies for effective preventative care. Those in power must allow the RVH staff the resources to do this effectively."

Sculpture Snub for Residents

John McCusker has accused those who are funding the proposed 'Rise' sculpture on the Broadway Roundabout of a complete disregard for the opinions of local residents. In February, John wrote to the Six County Department for Social Development, Belfast City Council and the Six County Arts Council in relation to the proposed sculpture. Yet, two months later, the Beechmount man has still to receive a single reply to his letters.

The Rise sculpture, will cost a total of £486,000, with £330,000 coming from West Belfast MLA Alex Atwood's DSD, £100,000 being provided by the Arts Council and the other £56,000 coming from Belfast City Council.

John said: "In January I was contacted by a number of residents in the St James' and Broadways areas, who were disgusted that the City Council, DSD and the Arts Council were splashing out so much money on a monument when at the same time public services in the area were under attack.

"Consequently, I wrote to all three bodies reporting the views of residents and asking them to reconsider their decision and carry out proper consultations in the communities concerned with a view to redirecting the money towards areas of real social need. The fact that I have yet to receive even an acknowledgement of receipt of my letters is a blatant snub to the residents who contacted me in the first place.

'If citizens raise concerns about the actions of state bodies through their political representatives they have a right to receive an adequate and prompt reply.'

"If citizens raise concerns about the actions of state bodies through their political representatives they have a right to receive an adequate and prompt reply. If the citizens in question were residents of the Malone Road I have no doubt they would have been listened to."

John McCusker

John McCusker is a 33-year-old long-time Beechmount resident, with strong family ties to the Upper Springfield. Active in socialist republican politics from the age of 16, John has been involved in many campaigns aimed at defending and securing the rights of the people of West Belfast and further afield.

These have included campaigns for adequate social housing, the rights of Irish language speakers and the rights of political prisoners and against sectarian marches and repressive legislation. John is a founding member of the Stop the Sell-Off campaign, which successfully prevented the auctioning of public land on the Andersonstown barracks site.

Earlier this year John was convicted of spurious public order offences relating to a protest at the headquarters of Anglo Irish Bank in Dublin, making him the first person to be convicted in relation to the entire banking crisis in the Twenty-Six Counties. A member of the GAA locally and an active trade unionist, John currently works in the public sector.

éirígí – The Socialist Republican Alternative

éirígí is an all-Ireland socialist republican political party which was founded in Dublin in 2006. From Cork to Belfast and Dublin to Donegal éirígí has now established itself as an energetic campaigning party and a credible alternative to the establishment political parties.

éirígí understands that many of the problems we face today, such as under-funded public services, unemployment, poverty, and anti-social behaviour are largely caused by the underlying economic system – capitalism. Until that system is replaced by a socialist one that puts the needs of the people ahead of the greed of big business these problems will continue to plague our communities.

éirígí also understands that the Irish people will not be able to establish such a democratic economic system until our right to self-determination is restored. In other words we can't have economic freedom without national freedom.

Here in the Six Counties éirígí has been to the fore in:

- **Opposing the Stormont cuts to healthcare, education, housing and other vital public services**
- **Challenging the 'normalisation' of the British occupation through opposing events like the 2008 RIR parade through Belfast**
- **Working with communities to tackle the root causes of crime and develop viable alternatives to the PSNI**

In the Twenty Six Counties éirígí has led the way in:

- **Directly challenging the bank bailouts, the establishment of NAMA and the savage cutbacks to public services**
- **Opposing the giveaway of the Corrib gas field to Shell and other energy corporations**
- **Building popular opposition to the state visit of Elizabeth Windsor**

éirígí is made up of ordinary people who have had enough of partition and a rotten economic system which allows the rich to get forever richer while the rest of us struggle to survive. People just like you. If you want to find out more about éirígí please log onto www.eirigi.org. If you are interested in joining or helping éirígí please contact éirígí in Belfast by phone on 079 3595 0601 or email at **eirigibealfeirste@gmail.com.**

www.eirigi.org